PROJECT 10073 RECORD [illegible] Incident #253

ATIC NO. ---

DATE OF INFO 6 Feb 49

1

AF NO. ---

LOCATION 12° 30'N - 81° 10' W Caribbean

REPORT NO. ---

SOURCE Ship's crew

DATE OF REPORT ---

DATE IN TO ATIC ---

TIME OF SIGHTING 1630 to 1700 Local

COLOR Silver to yellow to red

SHAPE Sphere

SPEED ---

Estimated
Measured
Estimated
Measured

SIZE 12" - 14" Diameter

ALTITUDE ---

COURSE 310° - N/S - 201°

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ---

NO. IN GROUP 3 Separate

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Visual - Sea

SOUND None

MANEUVERS S and L

PHOTOS ---

SKETCHES ---

Remarks: Could have been balloons from two Soviet ships in area.

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(Jan 52)

Balloons

UNCLASSIFIED

253

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS CARIBBEAN AIR COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

D-21

IN REPLY
REFER TO: 373.2

ALBROOK AIR FORCE BASE, C.Z.

14 FEB 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Objects Vicinity of San Andres Islands, Caribbean Sea

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCI

1. In accordance with Restricted letter, Hq USAF, subject, "Reporting of Information on 'Flying Discs'", 26 February 1948, the following report is submitted.

2. At 2030 hours on 8 February 1949, Captain [redacted] of the S. S. Antigua, a United Fruit vessel, berthed at Cristobal Pier area, Canal Zone, was interviewed regarding three aerial objects sighted by officers of his ship on voyage to Canal Zone from New Orleans, Louisiana.

3. Captain [redacted] stated that the first object, which appeared to be a disc, was sighted at 1630 on 6 February 1949 at 12 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 10 minutes west latitude, in the close vicinity of the San Andres Islands. The S. S. Antigua's course was 152 degrees at 16 knots. When sighted, the object was at an altitude of 60 degrees from the horizon as determined by the ship's sextant in the direction of 129 degrees. As it passed directly over the ship, several officers described it as a round, silver-colored sphere. Although [redacted] had difficulty in determining its height, he estimated the diameter as 12 to 14 inches. As it passed overhead, bearing 310 degrees, it changed in color from silver to yellow to red and went out of sight in the dusk at an altitude of 22 degrees. The wind at the time was estimated at force four, approximately 29.

4. At 1700 hours on the same date two more objects were sighted, one off the port bow at an altitude between 50 and 60 degrees, and the other off the starboard bow bearing 201 degrees at an altitude of 47 degrees. Both disappeared abeam in the dusk. None showed any luminosity or motivating power.

5. The circumstances described suggest a strong possibility that these objects are some type of weather balloons. However, it is improbable that any weather balloons released from the Canal Zone could float to this position due to the prevailing wind currents of this area. The

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DECLASSIFICATION DIR 5200.10
DOD DIR 5200.10

changing colors of the object can probably be attributed to the reflection of the setting sun.

6. On 7 February 1948 two Russian 300-ton sloops (Omar and Blesk) arrived at Colon, Republic of Panama, from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, enroute to Vladivostok via Honolulu, Hawaii. The backtrack computation of wind and course and point of sighting lend a possibility that the objects were in free flight after release from these two ships which followed a direct course from St. Thomas to Colon. These two vessels are presently awaiting repairs at Colon, and two others of the same type are presently in St. Thomas undergoing repairs. Any further developments will be promptly reported.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

LADSON G. ESKRIDGE, JR.
COLONEL, USAF
ASST CHIEF OF STAFF

1 Incl
Navigational Chart

Info cys to:
D/I, USAF
D/I, CC
DIO, 15th ND

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT NO. ~~253~~

1. Date of Observation 6 Feb 49 Date of Interview ~~6 Feb 49~~

2. Exact time (local) 1630 to 1700

3. Place of Observation 12° 30' N 81° 10' W Vicinity of San Andres Islands, Caribbean Sea

4. Position of observer At sea f/S. S. Antigua

5. What attracted attention to object :-

6. Number of objects 3

7. Apparent size 12 to 14 inches in diameter

8. Color of object silver changing to yellow to red

9. Shape Sphere

10. Altitude 1st: 60° f/horizon; 2d: Between 50 and 60°; 3d: 47° (to 22°

11. Direction from observer

12. Distance from observer

13. Direction of flight of object(s) 1st: 310°; 2d: N/S 3d: ~~310°~~ 201°

14. Time in sight

15. Speed

16. Sound and odor

17. Trail

18. Luminosity None

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers

21. Manner of disappearance Disappeared in the dusk

22. Effect on clouds

23. Additional information concerning object Thought to be some type of balloo released f/two Russian 300-ton sloops (Omar & Blesk)

24. Weather conditions

(over)

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEARS; INTERVA
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident: 253

Name and address of observer: [redacted], USMS
[redacted]

Occupation and hobbies: Merchant Marine Captain

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

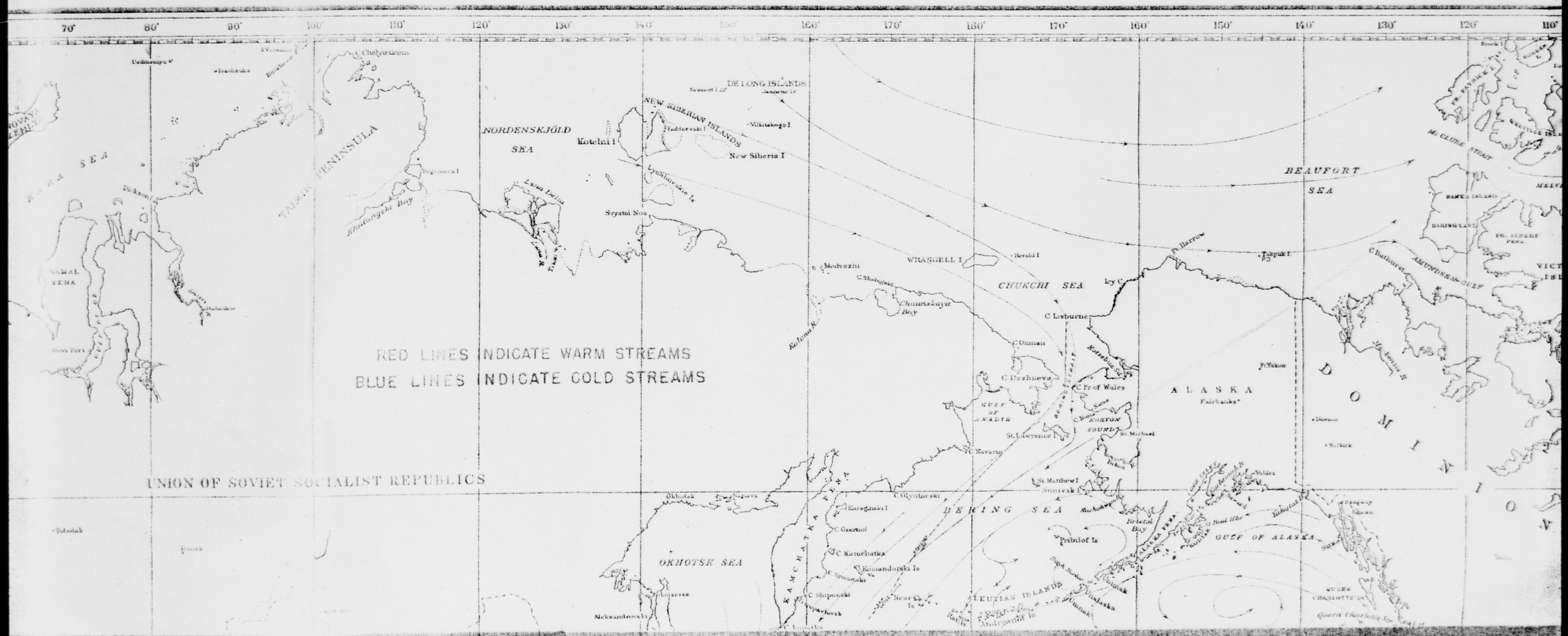
NARRATIVE SUMMARY: First object which appeared to be a disc was sighted at 1630 on 6 Feb 49 at 12° 30' north latitude and 81° 10' west latitude in the close vicinity of San Andres Islands. The S.S.Antigua's course was 152° at 16 knots. When sighted the object was at an altitude of 60° from the horizon as determined by the ship's sextant in the direction of 120°. As it passed directly over the ship, several officers described it as a round, silver-colored sphere. Although [redacted] had difficulty in determining its height he estimated the diameter as 12 to 14 inches. as it passed overhead on a bearing of 310° it changed in color from silver to yellow to red and went out of sight in the dusk at an altitude of 22°. Wind at the time was estimated at force four, approximately 29. At 1700 hours 2 more objects were sighted one off the port bow at an altitude between 50 and 60° and the other off starboard bow bearing 201° at an altitude of 47°. Both disappeared abeam in the dusk. None showed any luminosity or motivating power. Objects thought to be some type of weather balloons. However any balloon released from the Canal Zone would scarcely float to this position due to prevailing winds in this area. However, backtrack computation of two Russian 300-ton sloops with respect to wind, course and point of sighting lend a possibility that the objects were in free flight after relsase from these 2 ships which followed a direct course from St Thomas to Colon where they are presently awaiting repairs.

UNCLASSIFIED

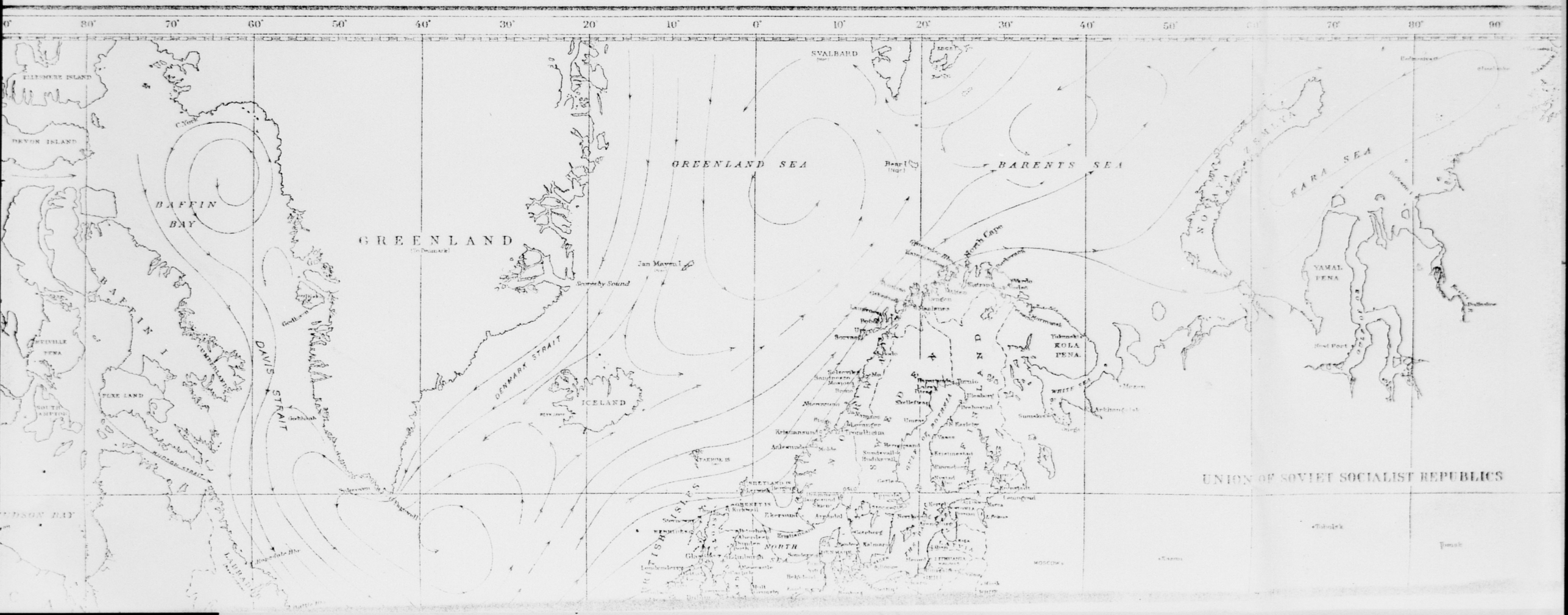
This case includes
one (1) Negative of
CARIBBEAN SEA 8"x10"

La Unione
Corinto
Lago de Managua
Managua
Bluefields
LAGO DE
NICARAGUA
Brito
San Juan del Norte
(Greytown)
Puntarenas
P. Limon
Bocas del Toro
Colon
Panama
Cristobal
Gatun
Balboa
I. Coiba
Pta. Mala
208
25
30
40
34
29
5
6

STREAM DRIFT


RED LINES INDICATE WARM STREAMS
BLUE LINES INDICATE COLD STREAMS
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
NORDENSKJÖLD SEA
NEW SIBERIAN ISLANDS
DE LONG ISLANDS
WRANGELL I.
CHUKCHI SEA
BEAUFORT SEA
BERING SEA
OKHOTSK SEA
GULF OF ALASKA
ALASKA
DOMINION
KAMCHATKA PENINSULA
TAIMYR PENINSULA
YAMAL PENINSULA
LEUTIAN ISLANDS
GULF OF ANADIR
NORTON SOUND
AMUNDSEN GULF
C. Lisburne
C. Dezhneva
C. Prof Wales
St. Lawrence I.
St. Matthew I.
Nunivak
Pribilof Is
Kotelni I.
New Siberia I.
Wrangell I.
Herald I.
Medvezhi
Chaunskaya Bay
Kolyma R.
Lena R.
Yenisei R.
Mackenzie R.
Yukon R.
Point Barrow
Fairbanks
Dawson
Seldovia
Valdez
Juneau
Sitka
Unalaska
Kodiak
Nome
Bristol Bay
Kotzebue Sound
Okhotsk
Petropavlovsk
Aleksandrovsk
Kamchatka
Kamandorski Is
Near Is.
Andreanof Is
Rat Is
Queen Charlotte Is
Queen Charlotte Str.
McClure Strait
Melville Island
Banks Island
Baring Land
Fr. Albert Land
Victoria Island
Bathurst
Brooks I.
Bonnet I.
Tuktoyaktuk
Herschel I.
Point Hope
Cape Lisburne
Cape Thaddeus
Cape Navarin
Cape Olyutorski
Cape Kamchatka
Cape Shipunski
Cape Kronotski
Cape Ozernoi
Cape Lopatka
Cape Elizabeth
Cape Chelyuskin
Cape Dikson
Cape Uchamiya
Cape Yakutsk
Cape Ayan
Cape Tarkhanskoe
Cape Kolyuchinskoe
Cape Sviatoi Nos
Cape Uyakhovskoe
Cape Shelagski
Cape Onman
Cape Barrow
Cape Bathurst
Cape Prince of Wales
Cape Nome
Cape Yakutsk

OF THE WORLD


80°
70°
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
10°
0°
10°
20°
30°
40°
50°
70°
80°
90°
ELLESMERE ISLAND
DEVON ISLAND
BAFFIN BAY
BAFFIN I.
DAVIS STRAIT
GREENLAND
Scoresby Sound
Jan Mayen I.
DENMARK STRAIT
ICELAND
GREENLAND SEA
SVALBARD
Bear I.
BARENTS SEA
North Cape
KOLA PENA.
WHITE SEA
Archangel
NORWAY SEA
KARA SEA
YAMAL PENA
Obi R.
Yenisei R.
Dikson
Tobolsk
Tomsk
Moscow
Tikhoretsk
Tiflis
Erzerum
Tabriz
Teheran
Mosul
Baghdad
Basra
Bushire
Kermanshah
Hamadan
Isfahan
Yezd
Kerman
Zahedan
Quetta
Karachi
Multan
Lahore
Peshawar
Kabul
Kandahar
Herat
Mashhad
Tashkent
Samarkand
Bukhara
Khiva
Aral Sea
Caspian Sea
Astrakhan
Kuybyshev
Saratov
Tsaritsyn
Voronezh
Kursk
Kharkov
Kiev
Odessa
Sevastopol
Simferopol
Rostov
Stavropol
Baku
Tiflis
Kutaisi
Batum
Sukhumi
Novorossiysk
Krasnodar
Yekaterinodar
Stalingrad
Saratov
Kazan
Perm
Sverdlovsk
Chelyabinsk
Omsk
Barnaul
Novosibirsk
Tomsk
Krasnoyarsk
Irkutsk
Yakutsk
Vladivostok
Khabarovsk
Blagoveshchensk
Chita
Ulan Bator
Urumchi
Kashgar
Leningrad
Murmansk
Petsamo
Tromsø
Hammerfest
Vardø
Kirkenes
Bergen
Stavanger
Kristiansand
Oslo
Trondheim
Narvik
Stockholm
Gothenburg
Malmö
Helsinki
Tallinn
Riga
Vilnius
Minsk
Kaliningrad
Copenhagen
Aalborg
Esbjerg
Hamburg
Bremen
Berlin
Stettin
Danzig
Warsaw
Cracow
Lwów
Prague
Vienna
Budapest
Bucharest
Sofia
Belgrade
Zagreb
Sarajevo
Athens
Salonika
Rome
Naples
Palermo
Cagliari
Marseille
Lyon
Paris
Le Havre
Cherbourg
Brest
Bordeaux
Toulouse
Nice
Madrid
Lisbon
Porto
Seville
Malaga
Barcelona
Valencia
Zaragoza
Bilbao
Santander
Coruña
Algiers
Oran
Tunis
Sfax
Tripoli
Benghazi
Cairo
Alexandria
Port Said
Suez
Khartoum
Addis Ababa
Asmara
Massawa
Dire Dawa
Mogadishu
Kismayu
Nairobi
Mombasa
Dar es Salaam
Tanga
Zanzibar
Lourenço Marques
Beira
Tete
Salisbury
Bulawayo
Lusaka
Ndola
Elisabethville
Leopoldville
Stanleyville
Bangui
Fort Lamy
Khartoum
Port Sudan
Kassala
Gondar
Addis Ababa
Harar
Jimma
Dire Dawa
Asmara
Massawa
Tripoli
Benghazi
Tobruk
Alexandria
Cairo
Port Said
Suez
Jerusalem
Beirut
Damascus
Aleppo
Baghdad
Basra
Mosul
Tehran
Tabriz
Erzerum
Trabzon
Ankara
Istanbul
Izmir
Adana
Mersin
Antalya
Konya
Eskisehir
Bursa
Samsun
Sinop
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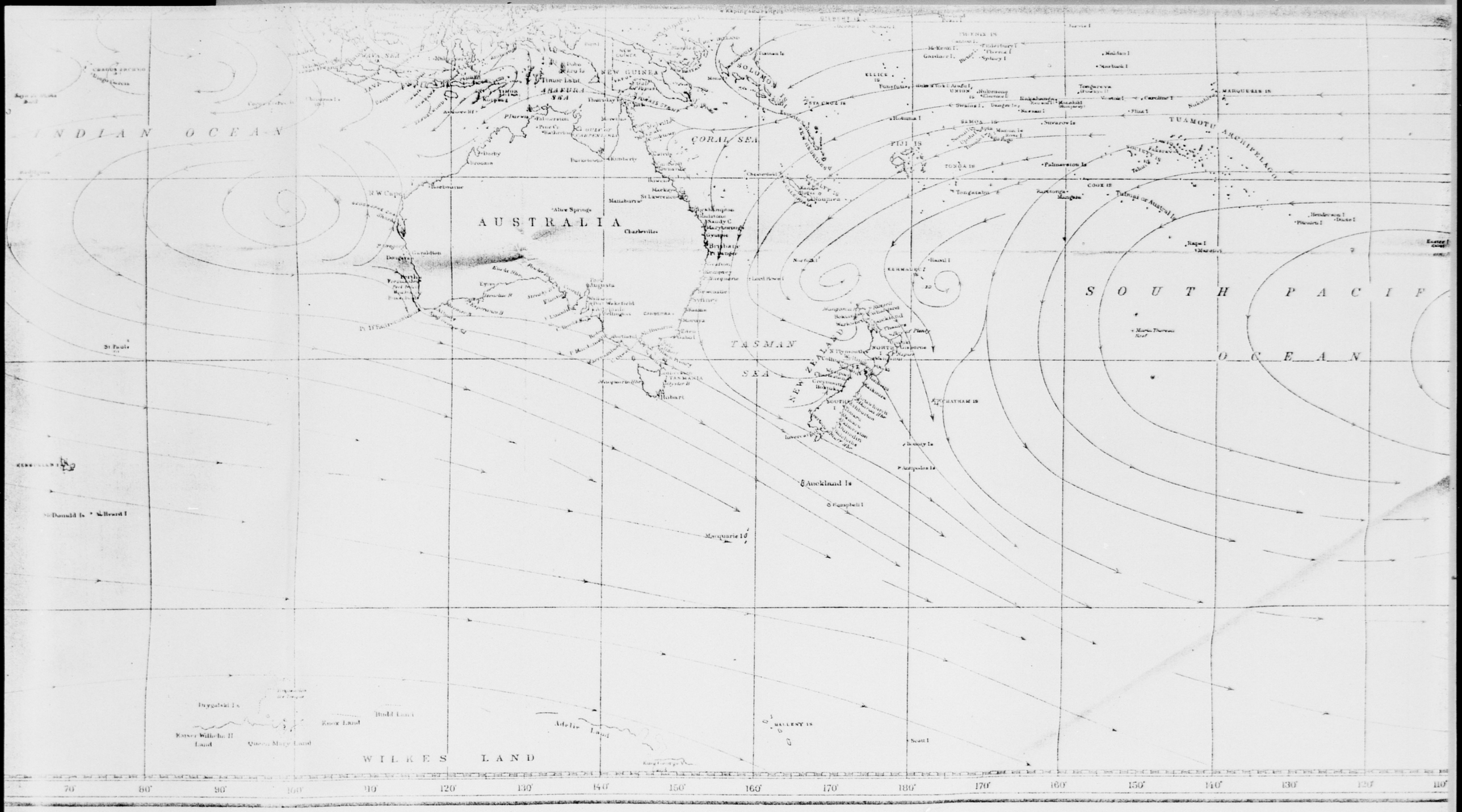
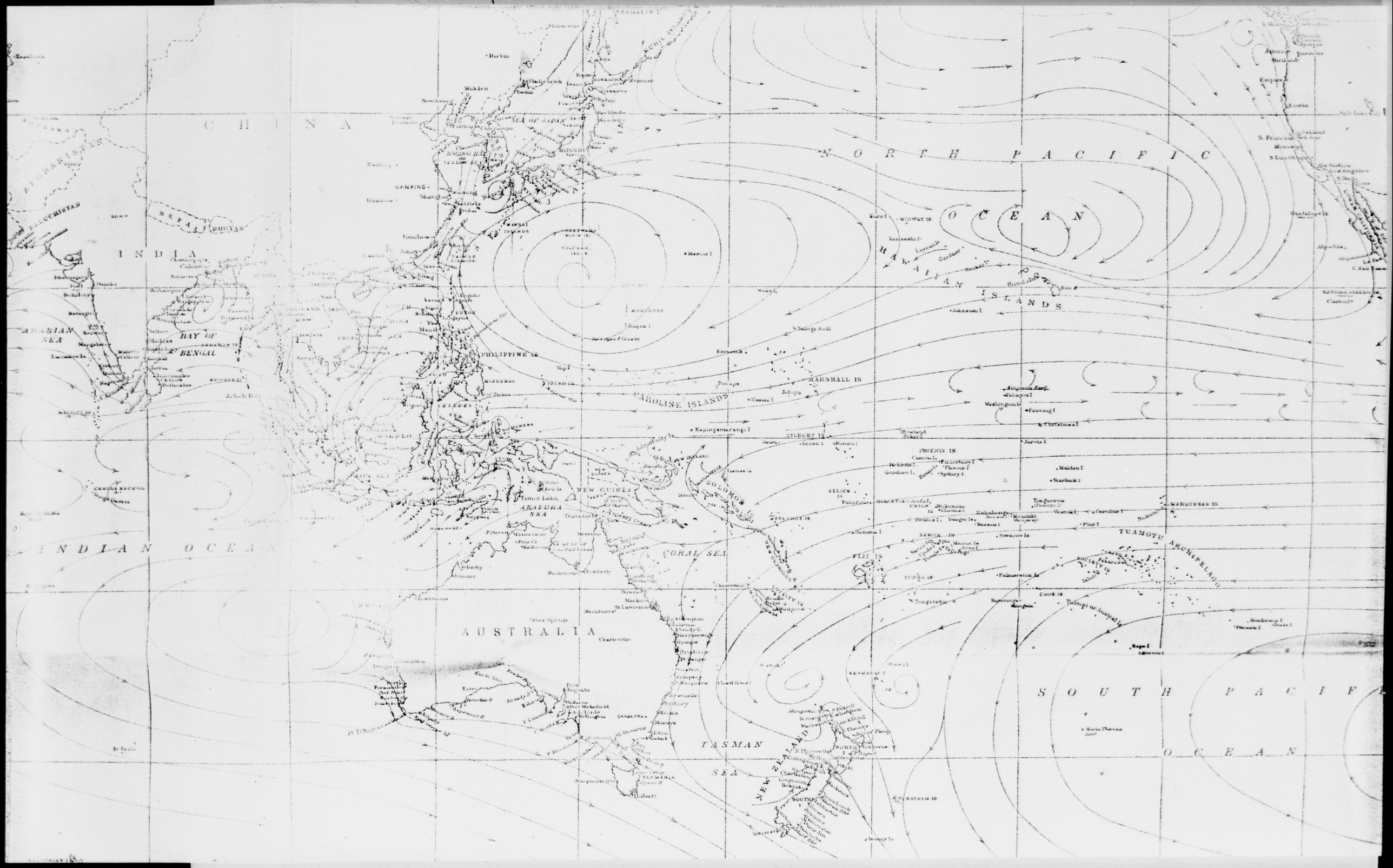
Diyarbakir
Van
Urfa
Mardin
Gaziantep
Kars
Erzurum
Batum
Tiflis
Kutaisi


INDIAN OCEAN
AUSTRALIA
ARAFURA SEA
NEW GUINEA
SOLOMON IS
CORAL SEA
FIJI IS
TONGA IS
SAMOA IS
COOK IS
TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO
MARQUESAS IS
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
TASMAN SEA
NEW ZEALAND
KERMADEC IS
CHATHAM IS
Auckland Is
Campbell I
Macquarie I
Antipodes Is
Bounty Is
HALLETT IS
Scott I
Adelie Land
WILKES LAND
Queen Mary Land
Knox Land
Budd Land
Kaiser Wilhelm II Land
Enderby Land
Kerguelen I
Heard I
Donald Is
St Paul
Hobart
Melbourne
Sydney
Brisbane
Darwin
Port Darwin
Thursday I
Timor Island
Palmerston
Port Q.
Rockhampton
Mackay
Townsville
Cairns
Cooktown
Charleville
Alice Springs
Marble Bar
Port Hedland
Geraldton
Albany
Esperance
Eucla
Port Lincoln
Port Pirie
Adelaide
Port Augusta
Port Macquarie
Newcastle
Hobart
Launceston
Bass Strait
Cape Leeuwin
Cape Otway
Cape Jervis
Cape Pillar
Cape Grim
Cape Moreton
Cape Byron
Cape Hauy


CHINA
INDIA
AFGHANISTAN
BALUCHISTAN
NEPAL
BHUTAN
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
ANDAMANS IS
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CEYLON
MALDIVE IS
CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO
INDIAN OCEAN
AUSTRALIA
TASMAN SEA
CORAL SEA
ARAFURA SEA
TIMOR SEA
GULF OF CARPENTARIA
NEW GUINEA
SOLOMON IS
NEW ZEALAND
NORTH ISLAND
SOUTH ISLAND
CHATHAM IS
TASMANIA
PHILIPPINE IS
MINDANAO
CELEBES
BORNEO
JAVA
SUMATRA
SEA OF JAPAN
YELLOW SEA
NANKING
Shanghai
Mukden
Harbin
Nagasaki
Kobe
Osaka
Tokio
Yokohama
Hongkong
Manila
Saigon
Bangkok
Calcutta
Madras
Bombay
Karachi
Colombo
Rangoon
Singapore
Batavia
Sydney
Melbourne
Adelaide
Perth
Hobart
Wellington
Auckland
Honolulu
Guam
Ponape
Jaluit
Kusaie
Tarawa
Apia
Pago Pago
Papeete
Rarotonga
Tongatabu
Suva
Noumea
Port Darwin
Thursday I
Cooktown
Brisbane
Newcastle
Port Augusta
Port Lincoln
Esperance
Albany
Geraldton
Broome
Port Hedland
Cape Leeuwin
Cape Otway
Cape Wilsons
Cape Grim
Cape Jervis
Cape Moreton
Cape Byron
Cape Leeuwin
Cape Pillar
Cape Maria Van Diemen
Cape Farewell
Cape Reinga
Cape Otway
Cape Wilsons
Cape Grim
Cape Jervis
Cape Moreton
Cape Byron
Cape Leeuwin
Cape Pillar
Cape Maria Van Diemen
Cape Farewell
Cape Reinga
NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
MIDWAY IS
Kure I
Laysan I
Gardner I
Necker I
Nihoa I
Ni'ihau I
Kauai I
Oahu I
Maui I
Hawaii I
Johnston I
Wake I
Marcus I
Wenman I
Guam
Rota I
Tinian I
Saipan I
Pagan I
Agrigan I
Farallon de Pajaros I
Maug I
Uracas I
Ascuncion I
Sarigan I
Anatahan I
Alamagan I
Guguan I
Farallon de Medinilla I
Farallon de Pajaros I
Maug I
Uracas I
Ascuncion I
Sarigan I
Anatahan I
Alamagan I
Guguan I
Farallon de Medinilla I
MARSHALL IS
Ebon I
Jaluit
Mili I
Arno I
Majuro I
Maloelap I
Wotje I
Kwajalein I
Ujelang I
Eniwetok
Rongelap I
Rongerik I
Bikini I
Ailinglapalap I
Namu I
Ailuk I
Utirik I
Rongerik I
Bikini I
Ailinglapalap I
Namu I
Ailuk I
Utirik I
CAROLINE ISLANDS
Ponape
Kusaie I
Ngatik I
Ponape
Kusaie I
Ngatik I
Kapingamarangi I
Nukuoro I
Ponape
Kusaie I
Ngatik I
Kapingamarangi I
Nukuoro I
GILBERT IS
Ocean I
Nauru I
Ocean I
Nauru I
Ocean I
Nauru I
Howland I
Baker I
Howland I
Baker I
PHOENIX IS
Canton I
Enderbury I
Phoenix I
Sydney I
Hull I
Gardner I
Canton I
Enderbury I
Phoenix I
Sydney I
Hull I
Gardner I
Jarvis I
Malden I
Starbuck I
Palmyra I
Washington I
Fanning I
Christmas I
Palmyra I
Washington I
Fanning I
Christmas I
Palmyra I
Washington I
Fanning I
Christmas I
Jarvis I
Malden I
Starbuck

OCEAN
SAHARA
FRENCH WEST AFRICA
FRENCH SUDAN
NIGER TERRITORY
CHAD
ANGLO EGYPTIAN SUDAN
NIGERIA (British)
CAMEROON
BELGIAN CONGO
KENYA
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY
ANGOLA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
SOUTHERN RHODESIA
BECHUANALAND
SOUTH WEST AFRICA
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
MADAGASCAR
ETHIOPIA
ARABIA
INDIA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
INDIAN OCEAN
WEST INDIES
CARIBBEAN SEA
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
ARGENTINA
CHILE
URUGUAY
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Tristan da Cunha
Gough I
Capetown
C of Good Hope
St Helena
Ascension
Fernando Noronha
Rio de Janeiro
Buenos Aires
Montevideo
Valparaiso
Santiago
Lima
Bogota
Caracas
Manaus
Belem
Recife
Bahia
Pernambuco
Iquique
Arica
Mollendo
Callao
Guayaquil
Panama
Kingston
Port of Spain
Bermuda
Cape Horn
Falkland Is
Stanley
Punta Arenas
Valdivia
Concepcion
Coquimbo
Antofagasta
Tacna
Cuzco
Iquitos
Santa Fe
Rosario
Mendoza
Tucuman
Salta
Jujuy
Corrientes
Asuncion
Cuiaba
Goiania
Belo Horizonte
Vitoria
Porto Alegre
Pelotas
Rio Grande
Sao Paulo
Santos
Curitiba
Florianopolis
Pernambuco
Maceio
Aracaju
Natal
Fortaleza
Sao Luis
Belem
Manaus
Santarem
Iquitos
Pucallpa
Cajamarca
Trujillo
Chiclayo
Piura
Tumbes
Guayaquil
Quito
Cali
Medellin
Barranquilla
Cartagena
Maracaibo
Valencia
Caracas
Ciudad Bolivar
Georgetown
Paramaribo
Cayenne
Port of Spain
Kingston
Bermuda
Nassau
Havana
Key West
New Orleans
Galveston
Mexico City
Vera Cruz
Tampico
Monterrey
Chihuahua
Guaymas
Mazatlan
San Francisco
Los Angeles
San Diego
Portland
Seattle
Vancouver
Victoria
Winnipeg
Toronto
Montreal
Quebec
Halifax
St John
Boston
New York
Philadelphia
Washington
Chicago
St Louis
Kansas City
Denver
Salt Lake City
Cheyenne
Omaha
Minneapolis
Duluth
Detroit
Cleveland
Pittsburgh
Cincinnati
Louisville
Nashville
Atlanta
New Orleans
Jacksonville
Charleston
Savannah
Mobile
Galveston
San Antonio
Dallas
Oklahoma City
Tulsa
Little Rock
Memphis
Vicksburg
Shreveport
Jackson
Birmingham
Montgomery
Tallahassee
Pensacola
Key West
Havana
Nassau
Port of Spain
Kingston